

Safety On The Road

Road Rage

*Don't be
intimidated
into
speeding.*

Angry drivers have caused fatal accidents. Don't drive when you are angry, and don't get intimidated by drivers who want to challenge you to a duel.

If you are angry or upset, you are not in control of the most important component — yourself as the driver. Your judgment is affected and you are more likely to take stupid chances with the safety of others on the road.

Common types of aggressive driving behavior are:

- Tailgating.
- Running amber or red lights.
- Cutting other drivers off.
- Weaving from one lane to the other.
- Speeding.
- Blocking other drivers from passing.
- Edging into intersections or crosswalks and crowding other vehicles or pedestrians.
- Impatient honking of the horn, gestures and shouting at other drivers.

The best thing you can do when you encounter a hostile driver is to get

away from him. Allow him to pass. Don't be intimidated into speeding — the big truck on your rear bumper will just go faster. Instead, pull to the right lane or even off the road if you can do so safely.

However, if you sense the driver might be out to assault you, do not stop until you get to a well-lighted place where there are other people, such as a shopping center. Carjacking and worse crimes sometimes start off as driving encounters.

Don't play the other driver's game. If it's a race he wants, let him win. Competitions on the road have ended up as fatal accidents.

If other drivers are giving you a hard time, consider the possibility that your driving is annoying. Could you be driving too slowly on the busy urban expressway? Are you slowing down and speeding up so nobody can pass you? Is there a convoy of vehicles crawling behind you on the two-lane highway? Have you had a turn signal on for the last 25 miles? Other drivers may be trying to tell you something!

Statistics show highway hostility is on the rise, bringing with it increased driving stress and increased accidents. For your own safety, don't get mad, and don't get even.

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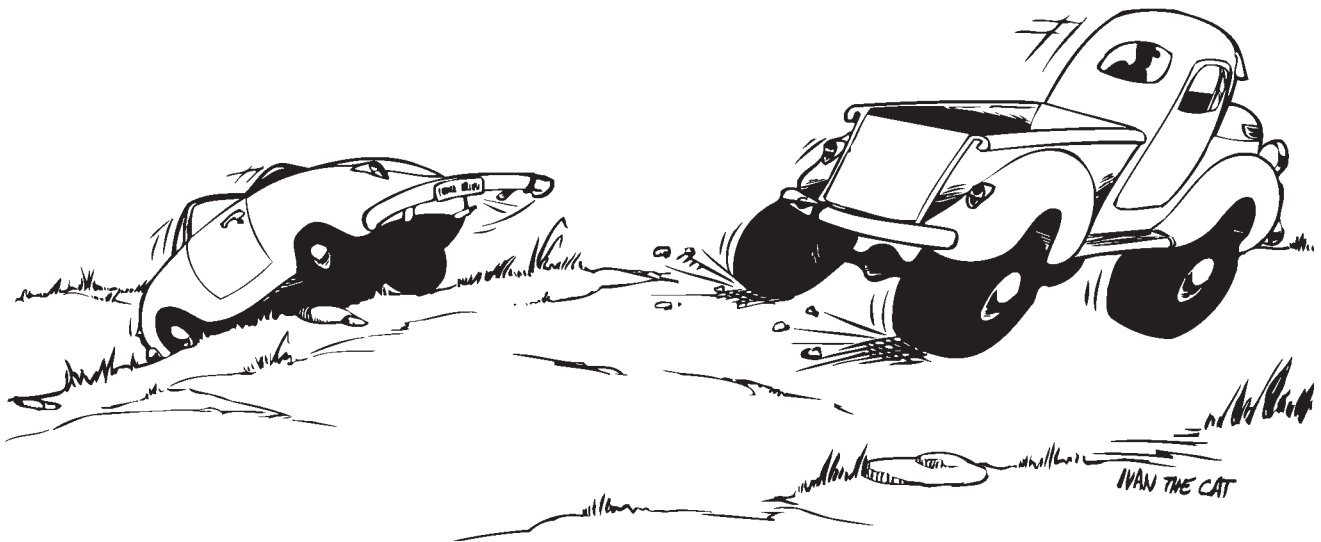
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